R E M A R K S

Claims 1-10 are now in this Application, and are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

The claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, to remove the reference numerals and to positively recite the various elements and limitations in the claims. In addition, claims 1-10 eliminate all multiple dependencies. A marked-up copy of claims 1-10 is provided as an Appendix hereto.

In addition, Fig. 3 has been amended, as indicated in red on the attached copy herewith, to add numeral 13, which is found in the specification at page 4, line 15 and page 8, line 9. The Examiner is requested to approve this drawing change. A separate letter to the Official Draftsman is enclosed which requests approval of this drawing change.

In addition, the Abstract found on the front page of the published PCT application has been added on a separate sheet hereto.

Please charge any additional fees incurred by this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1524.

It is hoped that this Preliminary Amendment will facilitate an examination of the application on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Goldberg
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,215

25 East Salem Street
Suite 419
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
TEL (201) 343-7775
FAX (201) 488-3884

MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Amended) An IVUS system [which comprises] comprising:

a) a catheter [(3)] having an ultrasonic transducer array mounted at least [or] near [its] a distal end thereof [an ultrasonic transducer array];

b) a catheter interface module [(4)] connected to [the] a proximal end of the catheter [(3)];

c) a display monitor [(12)];

d) a control device [(7,13,16)] for controlling the system;

e) a signal processing data entry and data storage device [(9)] for processing and storing [the] data derived from energization [energisation] of the ultrasonic transducer array to output a signal to the display monitor [(12)] in order to display an image of [the] an interior of a patient's body; and

f) a bed [(14)] for supporting a patient[;

characterised in that:]

g) [(i)] the catheter interface module [(4)], the display monitor [(12)] and the control device [(7, 13, 16)] are located adjacent to the bed [(14)] such as to be easily viewed and operated respectively by a clinician; and

h) [(ii)] the signal processing data entry and storage device [(9)] is located remotely from the bed at a sufficient distance to enable a clear space around the bed for occupation by a medical team so that [they] the medical team can be adjacent to the patient.

2. (Amended) An IVUS system as claimed in claim 1 [characterised in that there is] in which at least one of the following is located remotely from the bed [one or more of the following]:

(i) a power distribution unit [(8)];

(ii) a video recorder [(10)]; and

(iii) a video printer [(11)].

3. (Amended) An IVUS [A] system as claimed in claim 1 [or claim 2] in which the display monitor comprises a flat screen monitor.

4. (Amended) An IVUS [A] system as claimed in claim 1 [any previous claim] in which the control device incorporates [means] a device to enable control instructions to be given by voice and incorporates a voice recognition [means] device for accepting and implementing those instructions.

5. (Amended) An IVUS [A] system as claimed in claim 1 [any previous claim] in combination with an ultrasound system which employs a transducer which in use is placed externally of the patient.

6. (Amended) An IVUS [A] system as claimed in claim 1 [any previous claim] in combination with an X-ray system.

7. (Amended) An IVUS [A] system as claimed in claim 1 [any previous claim] in which the control device includes an infra-red remote control device to enable control instructions to be given from a position adjacent the patent to [the] remotely located units.

8. (Amended) An IVUS [A] system as claimed in claim 1 [any previous claim] in which the display monitor is mounted on the catheter interface module.

9. (Amended) A method of arrangement [the component or units] components of the IVUS system as defined in [any of claims 1 or claims 2 to 8] claim 1 [when depending upon claim 1], which method comprises the steps of:

a) locating the catheter interface module [(4)], the image monitor [(12)] and the control device [(7, 13, 16)] adjacent the bed [(14)] such as to be easily viewed and operated respectively by a clinician; and

b) locating the signal processing data entry and data storage device [(9)] remotely from the bed [(14)] at a sufficient distance to enable a clear space around the bed for occupation by a medical team so that the team can be adjacent the patient.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, comprising the step of locating at least one of the following at a position remote from the bed [one or more of]:

(i) a power distribution unit [(8)];

(ii) a video recorder [(10)]; and

(iii) a video printer [(11)].